GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1223
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
ILLEGAL MINING
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period of some of the leases granted for mining of iron ore and bauxite in Orissa has expired and the leaseholders are undertaking illegal mining;

(b) if so, whether the precious forest reserves are depleting as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for controlling of such illegal mining?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) to (c): Instances from time to time are brought to the notice of the Central Government that mining is being continued by the mining lease holders in the States(including State of Orissa) after expiry of mining leases. Under Rule 24A of Mineral Concession Rules(MCR),1960,if the mining lease holder applies for renewal of mining lease within the prescribed time, he can continue mining operations even after expiry of the mining lease period till the State Government passes order on the renewal of mining lease application.

As per information furnished by Indian Bureau ofMines,a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, twenty two Iron ore/ Iron& Manganese ore mining leases are working in Orissa wherein mining lease period has expired.

Controlling of illegal mining falls under the purview of the State Governments. To strengthen their hands, the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation)(MMDR)Act,1957 has been amended recently to delegate powers to State Governments to frame rules for preventing illegal mining etc.